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## FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N., DEPARTMENT EDITOR

### CURRENT EVENTS IN AUSTRALIA

Those who have long felt that the woman movement and the labor movement are one growth, of which the nursing profession is a branch, have this view confirmed by recent events in Australia where certain groups of nurses, now leading the way to the front in the new path of industrial democracy, as they formerly led in the older forms of organization for professional education and training standards, are being persecuted by the conventional elements of today who have accepted the earlier changes, just as the pioneer organizers were persecuted in their day by the conventional elements then.

Urgent economic pressure is evolving a Guild, not unlike the newest English Union, to promote especially the economic welfare of the nursing profession, and its leaders are having strange experiences. Next month we hope to describe the situation for the full understanding of our readers.

### THE AMERICAN NURSES' MEMORIAL, BORDEAUX

BY GERTRUDE CLARK CALHAY, R.N., BORDEAUX, FRANCE

*Graduate of the Presbyterian Hospital, New York*

June fifth will be a day long remembered by all interested in Doctor Hamilton's great work begun twenty years ago here in Bordeaux, for on that day the laying of the Foundation Stone of the American Nurses' Memorial at Bagatelle took place. A short description of so important an event will undoubtedly interest your many readers who made possible this wonderful gift to the Florence Nightingale School.

On arriving at the *Domaine de Bagatelle* we were greeted by a very pleasing scene. The music of the 144th Regiment d'Infanterie seated under the majestic elm trees played, while the graduate and student nurses served a most tempting variety of cakes, sandwiches and cold drinks to the many guests assembled at separate small tables which dotted the lawns. About twelve hundred people were present.

At four-thirty, we took our places around the official stand, artistically decorated with American and French flags. Representatives of the French Government and of the municipality of Bordeaux and Talence were present. The ceremony was presided over by Admiral Magruder, Naval Attaché of the American Embassy in France, with Doctor Hamilton seated at his right. Monsieur Cruse, President of the Board of Directors, welcomed the distinguished visitors

and in a short speech emphasized how much he appreciated the honor that had come to the *École Florence Nightingale* in receiving such a gift.

Admiral Magruder then introduced the American speakers, Colonel Emerson, Medical Director of the American Red Cross in France, and Commissioner Olds, also of the American Red Cross in France, both of whom spoke especially about the great part the splendid Army of American nurses played in the World War. The Admiral's speech in French was most interesting. He summed up, in a masterful way, why the American nurses had chosen the *Florence Nightingale School* to be the guardian of their memorial. He sang Doctor Hamilton's praises in a language so true that he was frequently interrupted by applause. At one moment he turned towards Doctor Hamilton and exclaimed "*Qu'elle est belle,*" but he quickly carried out his thought by adding "*Vous savez ce que je veux dire, son âme est belle.*" A deafening applause greeted this statement. Doctor Hamilton's great modesty suffered, but her legion of friends rejoiced that at last the public at large heard officially and directly about her life of sacrifice and work to alleviate the suffering of her fellow citizens by raising the standards of nursing in France to the same level as those in the United States. The Admiral also mentioned *Mademoiselle Claire Mignot's* intelligent and precious aid in seconding for fourteen years Doctor Hamilton as *Sous-Directrice* of the school. The nurses sang the American National Hymn. Then the representatives of the Prefect of the Gironde, the Mayors of Bordeaux and Talence, each in turn made reference to the Admiral's wonderfully clear and instructive speech, and with deep emotion, thanked the American nurses for their magnificent gift. Once again, they said, another bond of friendship and understanding had been tied between the two nations. The nurses sang the *Marseillaise*, then Helen Scott Hay, Chief Nurse of the American Red Cross in Europe, after reading Clara D. Noyes' message, proceeded to lay the first stone. The names of the nurses who gave their lives for Liberty's cause, also a copy of the statutes for the new school were placed in a sealed brass box, which was put in a cavity made for it in the stone. The nurses of the *Florence Nightingale School* on one side, the sailors and officers of the U. S. S. *Childs* 241 who came to Bordeaux especially for the event, and the 144th Regiment d'Infanterie on the other three sides, formed the guard of honor during this impressive moment. The Reverend Robert Davis made an inspiring address to the memory of the brave nurses fallen on the field of honor. The ceremony closed with a prayer by the French pastor of the Reformed Church, the sounding of taps and the nurses singing Gounod's "*Je te rends grace O Dieu.*"

In the evening a delicious supper was served to over a hundred and fifty guests at beautifully arranged tables set on the lawn. The menu, composed in true French fashion, was perfect, and many were the remarks as to what caterer had prepared such a supper. The secret was that Mademoiselle Mignot, with the aid of a Cordon bleu had devised everything herself.

While after-dinner coffee was being served, Madame Telignac, a graduate of the school, recited a poem she wrote for the occasion to thank the American nurses. Immediately after supper we were invited to take seats further along on the lawn, which was illuminated by Venetian lanterns hung on the branches of the trees surrounding the spot chosen for the stage. A piano duet, *L'Arlesienne*, played by Mesdemoiselles Gally and Bertet, opened the entertainment. When the curtains were drawn aside, the red and green Bengal fires lighted, we had before us a most bewitching fairy sight. The nurses in lovely flowing costumes and with beautiful waving hair sang and danced the *Ronde du Crepuscule* and the *Ronde de la Fee*. In such a perfect setting one was easily transported into fairyland. The "Angelus," a *tableau vivant*, was sung by Madame Roth and Mesdemoiselles Vurpillot. "Les Saisons," another *tableau vivant* was sung by Mesdemoiselles Vurpillot, Seltzer, Pirmez and Girbaud. Madame Roth sang an "Air de Freischutz." She has a beautifully trained soprano voice. Unfortunately the minutes passed too quickly and there was not enough time for the nurses to give all the numbers on their programme. Many of the guests who came from Paris wanted to take the night train back, so at ten-thirty the fête was brought to a close. I cannot begin to tell you with what thought and care the nurses prepared this entertainment, taking all their time off duty for many weeks and oftentimes at night, to make their costumes and to practice the songs and dances.

Doctor Hamilton thought of the comfort of everyone; for those not having automobiles, she ordered special trams so that her guests living far away could reach home easily and quickly.

I had almost forgotten to mention the wonderful surprise and gift Doctor Hamilton received from her Board of Directors in *Souvenir* of this glorious day. They presented her with a magnificent diamond brooch of three crescents interlaced, the coat-of-arms of Bordeaux.

The trustees also had bronze medals struck for the event. On one side is a young woman studying, pen in one hand, an open book in the other, with the date 5 Juin 1921 marked on one page of the book. On the other side of the medal, above the symbolic lamp, is engraved "American Nurses' Memorial Ecole Florence Nightingale."

On the edge of the medal is written Bordeaux, France. Doctor Hamilton presented these to all the American authorities present.

June fifth marks a turning point in the development of the Florence Nightingale School. Owing to the generosity of the American nurses, France will soon have a larger number of Doctor Hamilton's graduates to build up her standards of nursing and to carry forward the banner of hygiene, health and happiness.

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#### NURSES' COUNCIL AT CAMP OKOBOJI

The Nurses' Council of Lake Okoboji has recently completed its second annual session, when fifty-one nurses, student and graduate, combined study and recreation, proving that the vacation time of professional women may be made profitable and enjoyable at the same time. Located in northwestern Iowa, Camp Okoboji draws from the territory of Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa, and offers special opportunity for outdoor life and communion with nature in one of the most beautiful haunts. It has equipment for approximately two hundred people. The barracks, small cottages, large assembly and dining hall, which constitute the camp, occupy one of the highest points of the country, and are surrounded on almost every side by water. Bathing and boating were consequently the chief sports, though tennis courts, baseball facilities and the golf course were at hand for those who preferred them. The educational programme was conducted by wide-awake leaders in every field of discussion. Dr. Allen Hoben, Professor of Sociology, Carlton College, Northfield, Minn., presented Health Value of Play, and Health Value of Religion; Dr. E. J. Henneken of the National Child Hygiene Association, The Pre-School Child; Eva Anderson, of the Minneapolis Visiting Nurses Association, Visiting Nursing In Its Relation to Other Public Health Nursing; Dr. H. G. Leonard of the Department of Dental Hygiene, of the University of Minnesota, Dentistry In Its Relation to Child Health; Alma Wesley of the Fourth District Registry of Minneapolis, Opportunities Offered the Private Duty Nurse; Minnie Ahrens, Director Nursing, Central Division American Red Cross, Opportunities for Service in the American Red Cross; Margaret Baker of the Agricultural College, Ames, Iowa, Nutrition; and a paper by Kathrine Daugherty of Minneapolis General Hospital was read, covering The Future of Institutional Nursing. Dr. W. P. Lemon of Andrew Presbyterian Church of Minneapolis gave a series of lectures under the title The Faith of a Practical Man, and J. R. Perkins of the First Congregational Church, Council Bluffs, Iowa, lead the Bible class. Round Tables were conducted daily by the leaders after the day's lecture period, and the afternoons were left free for recreation. The key-note of the whole conference was service for community betterment as expressed in the inter-relationship of health, recreation, and the spiritual interpretation of "life in abundance."